pass said acid,

d) dialyzing the dispersion in water while the dispersion is so enclosed, and

e) harvesting free hyaluronic acid from within the semi-permeable membrane[.]_,_

wherein the free hyaluronic acid harvested in step (e) is suitable for placement permanently or temporarily in the body.

20. (Twice Amended) A free-acid form of hyaluronic acid [suitable for placement permanently or temporarily in the body], made by the method comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a solution of sodium hyaluronate in distilled water,

b) mixing into said solution an acid capable of producing a pH of 2.2 or lower at concentrations in water at 25° C in the range of 0.01 Normal to 1 Normal, to produce a mixture,

c) enclosing said mixture in a dialysis bag having a molecular weight cut-off large enough to pass the acid added in step (b),

d) placing the bag in de-ionized water,

e) periodically replacing the de-ionized water with fresh de-ionized water, until the pH of the de-ionized water exceeds 5.0, and

f) harvesting free hyaluronic acid from within the bag[.]_,_

wherein the free hyaluronic acid harvested in step (f) is suitable for placement permanently or temporarily in the body.